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Case Note

**A. Tomashevskya,**

Forensic Expert at Zhytomyr SRFC of the MIA of Ukraine,  
Zhytomyr, Ukraine,

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2320-5845>,

e-mail: [angelinazt77@gmail.com](mailto:angelinazt77@gmail.com)

**O. Tomashevsky,**

Head of Department of Forensic Information Technology (FIT) Zhytomyr  
SRFC of the MIA of Ukraine, Zhytomyr, Ukraine,

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3582-1808>,

e-mail: [tomashevskiyoleg@gmail.com](mailto:tomashevskiyoleg@gmail.com)

## **Topical aspects of round table holding at the current stage of forensic science institutions development**

*In modern international conditions, cooperation with representatives of other countries is becoming an objective need for pre-trial investigation bodies and forensic science institutions. And it requires not only the improvement of current forms and methods of negotiations but also the search for new forms of cooperation between countries based on mutual interests.*

*The Article purpose is to identify problem areas in holding scientific events in round table format as a means of finding solutions to detected issues in the field of forensic science at the regional and international levels. Recommendations for enhancing efficiency in round tables holding have been developed.*

*While research, the main issues leading to unsuccessful organization of round tables as a result of inconsistencies, lack of interactivity, insufficient argumentation framework, uncontrolled polyphonic discussion, inability to justify and develop their point of view have been considered.*

*Referring to the analysis of held round tables, a number of recommendations have been created and several methods have been developed for successful holding in the form of project with a clear division of preparation stages and allocation of specific tasks at each stage.*

*Validity of obtained results and conclusions is ensured thanks to general scientific and special research methods, being means for research, in particular for observation and formal logic (analysis, synthesis, deduction, induction, analogy, abstraction); the systemic and structural method was used to define peculiarities in holding of business meetings.*

*Implementation of these recommendations into forensic expert practice while business meetings will contribute to search for rational ways of problems solution, exchange of experience at the regional and international levels with forensic experts from leading countries of the world.*

**Keywords:** round table, business meeting, conversation, discussion, interactivity, research, forensic science institutions.

**Formulation of Research Problem.** Essence of modern international relations is in development of potential and cooperation, increasing authority and activation of legal institutions. In view of this, changing world realities objectively determine partnership formation as a principle of legal interaction which achievement should now be considered as the main goal and as a technology for solving complex pressing issues in forensic science.

Forensic science institutions are part of the relevant system and their activities contribute to clarifying the objective truth in cases of violations of law ensuring the rights and freedoms of participants in criminal proceedings through objective and fair proceedings, an objective basis for assessing the results of pre-trial investigation.

In modern international conditions, cooperation with representatives of other countries for pre-trial investigation bodies and forensic science institutions is becoming objective necessity. There is a need not only to improve existing forms and methods of negotiations, but also to find new cooperation forms between countries based on mutual interests, in order to prevent corruption and crime in Ukraine.

The idea of partnership importance (as a guiding principle of a democratic society) has already gained international recognition. Thus, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development dated on 01.01.1995 states importance of transparency and accountability in management of public bodies and the need to develop partnerships with free and representative civil society institutions <sup>1</sup>.

Partnership importance for effective work of forensic science institutions and government agencies, for creation of a legal welfare state has repeatedly drawn the attention of domestic and foreign scholars.

Ukrainian forensic science institutions need a long-term strategic partnership in the international legal field where tolerant relations between participants would be cultivated. Cooperation should be focused on improving the methods and techniques of forensic expert activity, systematic expansion of forensic expert competence and professional skills, increasing the degree of certainty of forensic expert conclusions, modernization of methods of forensic expert training, discussion of problematic issues.

Share point makes it possible to find certain points of contact that would serve in the future as a starting point for finding common ground, finding scientific truth or reaching a consensus on a problem.

**Analysis of Essential Researches and Publications.** The issue of developing effective methods of decision-making in the system of public administration has been studied by many scientists (V. D. Bakumenko, O. O. Babinova,

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<sup>1</sup> Конвенция о договоре международной автомобильной перевозке пассажиров и багажа. Женева, 1973. (КАПП) // *Treaty Series*. Vol. 1774. N. Y., 2000. P. 109—162.

O. H. Pukhkal, etc.)<sup>1</sup>. However, the methodology of the Round Table is not considered in research papers at appropriate level, especially its specification in the field of forensic science (although the issue of public participation in state-building processes paid attention to such researchers as: V. I. Bordenyuk, E. P. Kushnaryov, S. O. Moskalenko, O. V. Kulinich and others)<sup>2</sup>. Scholars have substantiated the use of various technologies and methods to build a strong democracy in the country.

Most developed democracies have already gained considerable experience in interaction of public authorities with public. One of the main cooperation methods between the public and the authorities, scientists call open discussion (for all its democracy) characterized by certain features: both organization of such a discussion and discussion process itself.

Researches indicate that from various symposia, conferences, workshops up to 40% of efficiency of professionals receive while informal communication that is often important and has a significant impact on entire communication process. The effectiveness of this conversation can be increased by giving it organized character in form of thematic discussions, i.e. Round Table.

The *Round Table* term derives from the medieval knightly novels about King Arthur: when the knights sat at the round table so that there was no dispute between the participants for the best place. Later, stories about the Round Table spread through European folklore and literature<sup>3</sup>.

Over time, the round table became an indispensable attribute of diplomatic negotiations and international conferences. The phrase “sit at the round table” now means equality of all participants in the discussion, peace talks, friendly share point.

This **Article Purpose** is to identify problem areas in conducting scientific events in the format of a Round Table as a means of finding ways to solve identified issues in the field of forensic science at regional and international levels.

**Main Content Presentation.** The *Round Table* term in modern sense has been used since the XX century.

<sup>1</sup> Бакуменко В. Д. Державно-управлінські рішення : навч. посіб. Київ, 2012. 344 р. ; Бабінова О. О. Методи залучення громадськості до прийняття управлінських рішень: зарубіжний досвід. *Ефективність державного управління* : зб. наук. пр. ЛРІДУ НАДУ при Президентіві України ; за заг. ред. А. О. Чемериса. Львів, 2004/05. Вип. 6/7. Р. 217—224.

<sup>2</sup> Борденюк В. І. Децентралізація державної влади і місцеве самоврядування: поняття, суть та форми (види). *Право України*. 2005. № 1. Р. 21—25 ; Москаленко С. О. Взаємодія держави і громадських організацій як суб'єктів соціальної політики. *Вісник НАДУ*. 2006. № 4. Р. 242—249 ; Кулініч О. В. Механізми взаємодії органів державного управління та громадських організацій в реалізації молодіжної політики в Україні : автореф. дис. ... канд. наук. Харків, 2009. 19 р.

<sup>3</sup> Попова М. К. Легенда о короле Артуре в культуре елизаветинской Англии // *Миф в культуре Возрождения*. Москва, 2003. Р. 294—300.

This is one of the ways to organize the discussion of acute, complex and topical issues and experience exchange in professional area. Each of participants has the right to express their point of view while discussion of a controversial or debatable issue. No one is allowed to behave superficially towards other participants. Position of each participant should be respected. While Round Table criticism is inadmissible.

This model of discussion ultimately yields results that become new agreements.

Let us consider the issues that can often hinder a successful roundtable, and a number of solutions to these issues. Achieving interactivity in communication plays a significant role in discussion. The key to achieving interactivity is combination of a thorough step-by-step preparatory process with equal and tolerant discussion during the Round Table discussion.

Round Table discussion provides equal opportunities for all participants to defend their point of view. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to reach unanimity and agreement by finding common solutions to the problems.

Let us highlight weakest points in preparation and holding Round Table that lead to unsuccessful or mediocre results.

Sometimes the cause of many unsuccessful business meetings is insufficient argumentation and inability to develop and justify their point of view. Such a problem can arise due to the participant's too general understanding of his task. Accordingly, it can be solved by detailing roles of the participants. At the same time, the variety of opinions during the conversation, in contrast to the debate, greatly contributes to success of business meeting.

The greatest challenge in conducting a successful Round Table is to provide real interactivity that provides many opportunities to solve specific issues, as it is a platform for exchanging views on a particular issue and each participant has opportunity to express themselves.

Ironically, for the same reason, a business meeting can be a real problem, if you do not strike a balance between exciting and lively conversation and order: it is impossible to turn discussion into a monotonous speech of the opponent or uncontrolled polyphonic discussion.

The reason for the latter is inability of interlocutors to listen and hear each other. Excessive attention in their speech leads to the fact that instead of thoughtful listening to interlocutors and adequate response to their words (i.e. full participation in communication), opponents repeat the prepared text of their speech. Another extreme is intolerance to opposite opinion and unwillingness to listen to the interlocutor and his arguments. It should be noted that the latter occurs much less frequently than excessive passivity and apathy.

Based on the analysis of the round tables, a number of recommendations were developed. In particular, moderator is recommended to carefully prepare and consider introduction, to formulate a specific, rather narrow topic of discussion (for example, instead of too broad a topic to prefer a narrower and

more specific). The moderator should be well acquainted with the position of each participant and be able to translate questions from one position to opposite for a lively discussion. Participants should be active (not only when voicing their position, but while listening to the speeches of others), boldly express their opinion, be ready to discuss the problem to identify possible ways for its solving, have a position, theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

In addition, lack of interactivity of the participants in the business meeting is largely manifested in inability of interlocutors to make necessary arguments in time in favor of their position to respond to opponent statements.

Another difficulty in holding a Round Table while the interlocutors, for various reasons have a very vague idea is expected. Participants take turns taking part in performance, but such a business meeting causes nothing but boredom. Therefore, it is recommended to organize a round table in the form of project work, with a clear division of preparation stages and specific, equally clearly defined tasks at each stage.

Research activities can involve problems such as the unforeseen absence of participants due to health problems (especially moderators, VIP guests and speakers) and lack of financial support.

Currently, there are several approaches to Round Table that we consider appropriate to consider in this article.

The most common way to hold a business meeting is a meeting in any form that does not have a clearly defined agenda. Sometimes no one even chairs such meetings, they are held with a large number of participants in the form of a conversation (for example, a commission meeting or scientific meeting). In this case, no decisions are made. The Round Table purpose organized in this way is to exchange views<sup>1</sup>.

Another way to organize and hold a business meeting requires specific issue discussion. The purpose of such a business meeting is to express, study and summarize a wide range of opinions and ideas on the issue: each of the participants expresses a personal opinion on discussed issue<sup>2</sup>.

In this case, the round table is an opportunity to discuss controversial issues, examine the problem from different points of view, draw attention to unresolved issues and reach consensus. The task of holding business meetings in this way is to mobilize and activate the participants to solve specific pressing problems.

Conducting a business meeting involves: compliance with certain rules, willingness of interlocutors to discuss the problem and identify possible ways for its solving, as well as the participants have theoretical knowledge, certain position and practical experience. In order to create a business ambience and achieve a positive result it is necessary:

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<sup>1</sup> Галушко В. П. Діловий протокол та ведення переговорів : навч. посіб. Вінниця, 2002. 226 р.

<sup>2</sup> Гах Й. М. Етика ділового спілкування : навч. посіб. Київ, 2005. 160 р.

- provide optimal number of participants (for an audience of 20—30 people need an assistant who provides the work of technical means for video and audio recordings; involvement of a significant number of professionals requires two moderators);
- agree on the rules of speeches (usually common rules of speeches: 2 hours, speeches of participants and experts: up to 10 minutes, participation in discussion: 3—5 minutes);
- decorate the room accordingly (it is desirable that the Round Table was really round, this will facilitate group communication and maximum participation of all present in discussion) <sup>1</sup>.

There are three stages in management and holding Round Table: preparatory, discussion and final one <sup>2</sup>.

*Preparatory stage* includes:

- problem choice (problem should be relevant, acute, have different solutions);
- moderator selection (he manages business meeting and therefore should know at a high level the method of building information, art of creating a trusting ambience, be able to support and lead discussions, be erudite and informed);
- selection of disputants (disputants are international partners, representatives of various institutions and stakeholders of other executive structures);
- scenario preparation (holding round table according to a pre-planned scenario allows to avoid spontaneity and chaos).
- equipping premises with standard equipment in order to maintain business ambience (multimedia, audio and video equipment);
- advising participants (allow to develop certain beliefs in majority of participants that these participants will further defend);
- preparation of necessary materials (in paper form or on electronic media: materials of express examinations, statistical data of conducted analysis).

*Discussion stage* includes moderator's speech who defines the Round Tables rules, problem, rules and informed all participants about common rules of communication.

*Final stage* includes:

- summarizing final results by moderator;
- making decisions or recommendations, adopting resolution;
- determining joint event results.

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<sup>1</sup> Чмут Т. К., Чайка Г. Л. Етика ділового спілкування : навч. посіб. 2-ге вид., перероб. і доп. Київ, 2002. 224 р.

<sup>2</sup> Требін М. П. Круглий стіл // Політична енциклопедія ; редкол. : Ю. Левенець (голова), Ю. Шаповал (заст. голови) та ін. Київ, 2011. Р. 377.

It should be noted that communication is an extremely complex phenomenon when the success of negotiations in general depends on individual actions.

At the conversation beginning you should orient yourself and try to establish contact with your partner. This stage purpose is to attract attention and interest of the partner to the conversation and create a favorable atmosphere for communication. This is crucial to ensure the interlocutor's willingness and willingness to participate in the conversation.

The most rational communication beginning is a direct transition to the subject of conversation without long introduction.

While sending a message, you should express your position so that interlocutor clearly understands it. It will be easier to understand message if it is presented concisely, consistently, logically and clearly. Intonation, pace of conversation, tone of voice, facial expressions, facial expressions and gestures play an important role in conveying the message. After presenting the initial message in the conversation, the initiative must be given to the partner <sup>1</sup>.

While communication, you need to actively listen; this involves not only understanding content of statements, but stimulating the interlocutor statements reflecting the state of the partner, his interests, showing attention to.

There are three main forms of listening: clarification, speech support, commenting <sup>2</sup>.

Clarifying means making sure of adequate interlocutor understanding. By supporting the statement, it is necessary to provide the interlocutor with opportunity to express his position; commenting means expressing your opinion.

Arguments should be clear, convincing, simple and accurate. Argumentation phase is aimed at logical connection of ideas, clear definition of differences, influence on interlocutor position. Evidence should be presented in correct form. The persuasion method should be built taking into account characteristics of the partner temperament. The principle of clarity will also come in handy.

Summing-up stage involves formulation of mutual obligations and the definition of specific actions to implement and control fixing of agreements. Notes made in the interlocutor presence indicate a serious attitude to the decisions made.

Leaving contact involves: paying attention to the partner, outlining cooperation prospects, demonstrating their interest in compliance with the agreements, thank them for their participation. The form in when conversation ends should help to create an ambience of mutual respect. If conversation is delayed, it should be directed to current affairs: so you can without creating

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<sup>1</sup> Кубрак О. В. Етика ділового та повсякденного спілкування : навч. посіб. 3-тє вид., стереотип. Суми ; Київ, 2005. 224 р.

<sup>2</sup> Зубенко Л. Г., Немцов В. Д. Культура ділового спілкування : навч. посіб. Київ, 2002. 200 р.

a feeling of inconvenience, to make it clear to the interlocutor that it is necessary to end the conversation <sup>1</sup>.

While organizing round tables, it is necessary take into account location of participants at the table: it plays a significant role in its success. Let us consider problems that can arise between participants in the discussion in the case of their location at a standard table (rectangular, round, square) and determine which of them is optimal in certain circumstances.

While researches it was found that sitting opposite each other, each participant subconsciously divides the table into two levels of territory, while each claims to its own territory and will protect it in case of encroachment. If participants do not want to communicate with each other at the table, they take an independent position. This situation is usually seen as a lack of interest and hostility from a person whose territorial boundaries have been violated. If you need an open conversation between the participants, such an arrangement should be avoided <sup>2</sup>.

It has long been believed that table should focus on one side of the world. The ancients believed that by sitting to the North, one could count on success in business. A sense of will and a propensity to take risks can be ensured by facing south. The face facing east foretells ingenuity and dynamism. The location in the western direction should provide new creative ideas.

As for square table, it contributes to creation of relations of rivalry equal in status to the participants. Such tables are effective for emphasizing subordination or for a short business conversation. At the same time, it will be possible to establish cooperation faster with person sitting at the table next to you. The person sitting to your right will understand you better than the person to your left. At the same time, one sitting right in front of you will put up the most resistance. It is generally believed that a square table is not conducive to building an atmosphere of trust.

Using rectangular table, guests who are placed at different ends of the table risk being left out of conversation taking place at the center of the table. Leading position will be occupied and exercised by those who do not sit with their backs to the door <sup>3</sup>.

Practice has demonstrated that relaxed ambience is facilitated by an informal round table: it is the best way to hold a business meeting of people having the same social status, as everyone at the table is given the same space. At this table, none of the guests will be out of the group and none will claim the championship.

**Conclusions.** At the present modernization stage of forensic activity and active cooperation, Round Tables will contribute to the democratic development of legal relations in the context of globalization and the formation of consensus

<sup>1</sup> Кубрак О. В. *Op. cit.*

<sup>2</sup> Білик Е. Сучасна енциклопедія етикету: 1000 правил і корисних порад ; пер. з рос. О. Росінської. Донецьк, 2005. 382 р.

<sup>3</sup> Статінова Н. П., Радченко С. Г. *Етика бізнесу : навч. посіб.* Київ, 2001. 280 р.

as an effective mechanism for cooperation in interstate relations. Discussing problems, exchanging views, establishing close contacts, finding additional opportunities and discussing special, “hot” issues gives the roundtable dynamism and eccentricity. Their holding will facilitate experience exchange and the search for the most rational ways to solve the issues caused by activities of forensic science institutions.

The results of performed research that proposed innovations do not claim to be the final solution to relevant problems while conducting Round Tables and can be the basis for choosing the most appropriate solution to these problems through a broad and correct scientific discussion.

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**А. О. Томашевська, О. В. Томашевський**  
**Актуальні аспекти проведення круглих столів**  
**на сучасному етапі розвитку**  
**судово-експертних установ**

*На основі дослідження визначено проблемні аспекти проведення наукових заходів у форматі круглого столу у сфері експертної діяльності. Розглянуто декілька способів вдалого проведення круглих столів у формі проєктної роботи з чітким поділом етапів підготовки й конкретними завданнями на кожному етапі. Розроблено рекомендації і запропоновано рішення для ефективності проведення круглих столів на регіональному й міжнародному рівнях.*

*Достовірність здобутих результатів і висновків забезпечено загальнонауковими та спеціальними методами дослідження, зокрема: спостереження, формальної логіки (аналіз, синтез, дедукція, індукція, аналогія, абстрагування), а також системно-структурним.*

**Ключові слова:** круглий стіл, ділова зустріч, бесіда, дискусія, інтерактивність, дослідження, судово-експертні установи.

**А. А. Томашевская, О. В. Томашевский**  
**Актуальные аспекты проведения круглых столов**  
**на современном этапе развития судебно-экспертных учреждений**

*В современных международных условиях сотрудничество с представителями других стран для органов досудебного расследования и судебно-экспертных учреждений становится объективной необходимостью. а это требует не только совершенствования уже существующих форм и методов ведения переговоров, но и поиска новых форм сотрудничества между странами на основе взаимных интересов.*

*Целью данной статьи является выявление проблемных зон в проведении научных мероприятий в формате круглого стола как средства нахождения путей решения обнаруженных проблем в сфере экспертной деятельности на региональном и международном уровнях. Разработаны рекомендации для эффективности проведения круглых столов.*

*В процессе исследования определены основные проблемы, приводящие к неудачным круглым столам из-за несогласованности, отсутствия интерактивности, недостаточной аргументационной базы, неуправляемого многоголосого обсуждения, неумения обосновать и развить свою точку зрения.*

*На основании анализа проведённых круглых столов разработан ряд рекомендаций и рассмотрено несколько способов удачного проведения в форме проектной работы с чётким разделением этапов подготовки и распределением конкретных задач на каждом этапе.*

*Достоверность полученных результатов и выводов обеспечена благодаря общенаучным и специальным методам исследования, являющимся*

средствами научного поиска, в частности — наблюдению и формальной логике (анализ, синтез, дедукция, индукция, аналогия, абстрагирование); системно-структурный метод использовали для определения особенностей проведения деловых встреч.

Внедрение в экспертную практику указанных рекомендаций при проведении деловых встреч будет способствовать поиску рациональных путей решения проблем, обмену опытом на региональном и международном уровнях с экспертами ведущих стран мира.

**Ключевые слова:** круглый стол, деловая встреча, беседа, дискуссия, интерактивность, исследования, судебно-экспертные учреждения.

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## **C**ontributor

The author was the sole contributor to the intellectual discussion underlying this paper, case-law exploration, writing and editing, and accept responsibility for the content and interpretation.